

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph on page 2, lines 23-31, with the following amended paragraph:

To address some of these issues, U.S. Patent No. 6,157,955 has proposed a general-purpose programmable packet-processing platform for accelerating network infrastructure applications that have been structured to separate the stages of classification and action.

According to the Abstract of this patent:

“Network packet classification, execution of actions upon those packets, management of buffer flow, encryption services, and management of Network Interface Controllers are accelerated by a multiplicity of specialized modules. A language interface is defined for specifying both stateless and stateful classification of packets and to associate actions with classification results in order to efficiently utilize these specialized modules.”